

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN®

ISSUE

90

SILVER SABLE: PART 5



**BENDIS
BAGLEY
DELL**

MARVEL®

The bite of a genetically altered spider granted high school student Peter Parker incredible, arachnid-like powers! When a burglar killed his beloved Uncle Ben, a grief-stricken Peter vowed to use his amazing abilities to protect his fellow man. He learned the invaluable lesson that with great power must also come great responsibility...

PREVIOUSLY

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN



Having recently broken up with his girlfriend, Mary Jane, Peter started dating the X-Men's Kitty Pryde. But Peter's happiness is short-lived, as the mercenary group The Wild Pack, led by the beautiful and deadly Silver Sable, is hired to capture Spider-Man!

Their employer, Donald Roxxon (head of the Roxxon Corporation) thinks Spider-Man has been specifically targeting Roxxon properties for protection against super-villains (which, of course, Spidey hasn't) and wants to capture Peter to find out why (which, of course, is a funny way to say "thank you").

In a rooftop garden, Sable and her Pack try to figure out what to do with the captured Spider-Man (and the confused Roxxon). But they inadvertently alert S.H.I.E.L.D.—America's elite espionage force—to their location. S.H.I.E.L.D. head Nick Fury has long had his eye on Peter, but before S.H.I.E.L.D. can make its move, the rooftop is attacked—by a man in a green bird costume!

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To find Marvel Comics at a local comic shop, call 1-888-COMICBOOK.



Hey,
wait up!!

You
can't just leave
now!

You went
to all that trouble
to make yourself into
this big bald flying
bird-man--

--and you
went and tossed
some grenades--

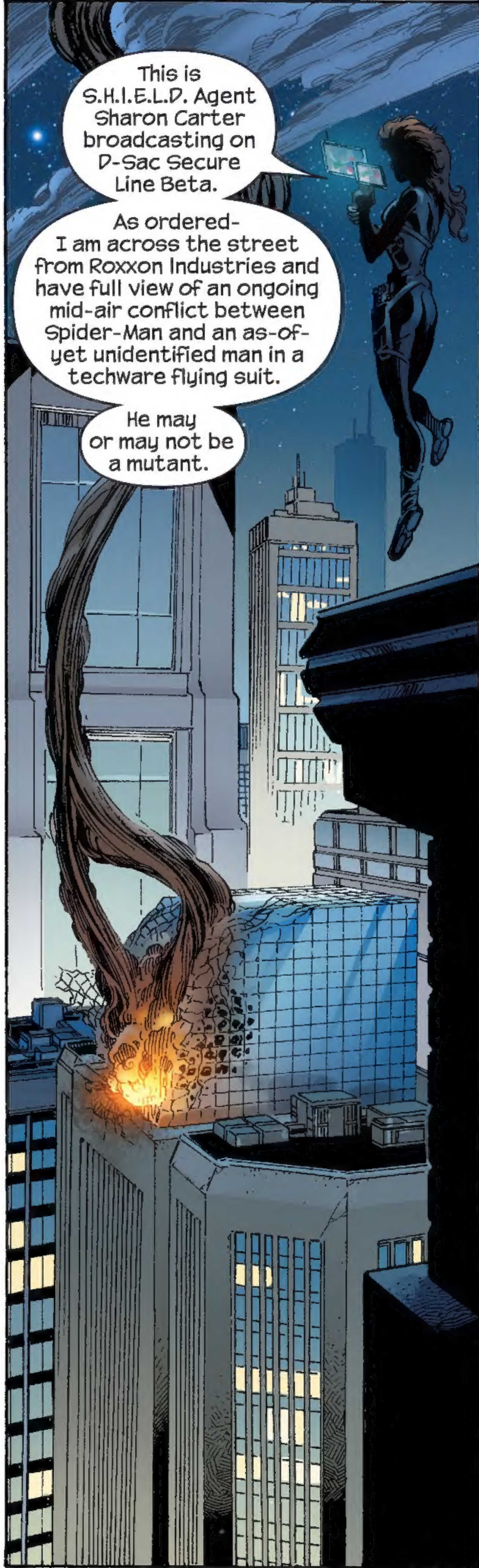
--the least
you could do is
hang around for
the super-hero
showdown!



Unless you need to find a park statue to poop on...

Then by all means...

I'll wait.



This is S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent Sharon Carter broadcasting on D-Sac Secure Line Beta.

As ordered- I am across the street from Roxxon Industries and have full view of an ongoing mid-air conflict between Spider-Man and an as-of-yet unidentified man in a techware flying suit.

He may or may not be a mutant.



As ordered, I am observing, recording and not engaging.

Switching to full cloak.

Over.



This is Nick Fury at the Triskelion, reading you loud and clear, Agent.

What do you got? What do you see? What do you know?



Not to get too technical but Spider-Man is chasing a skinny bald guy in a big bird outfit.

Images should be coming in now. Over?



"Spider-Man is chasing a skinny bald guy in a big bird outfit."

Now there's a sentence you don't hear every day.

I'll go put on the Iron Man armor.

Actually, no.

Let this play out for a minute.

Why?

Paint me a picture, Agent.



Here comes footage.

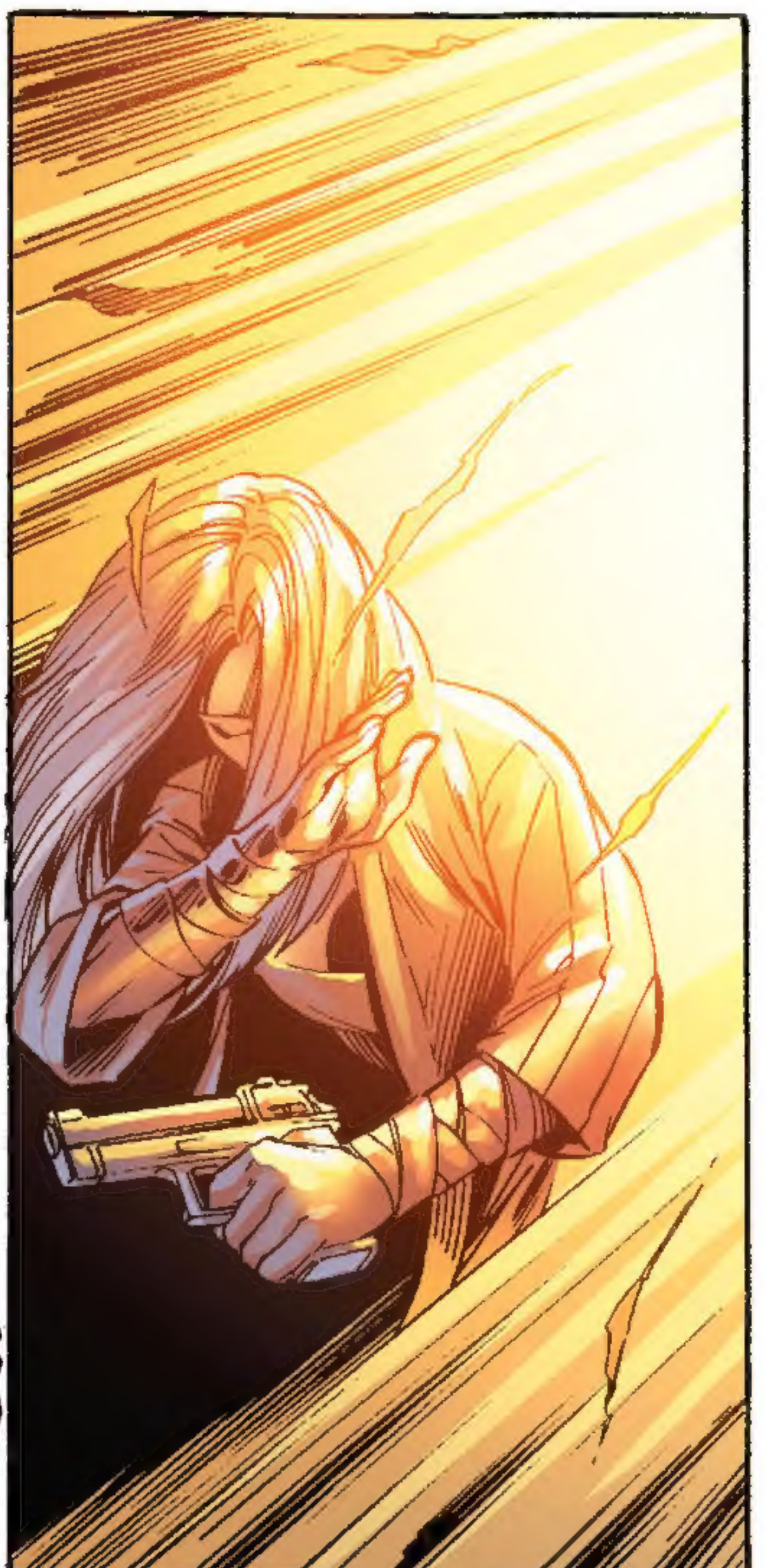
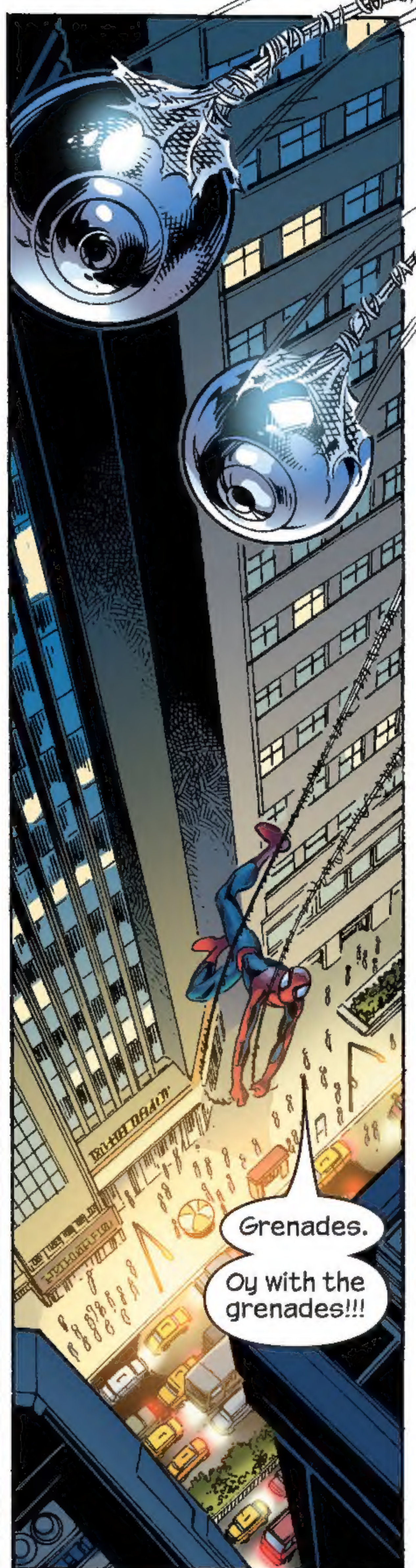
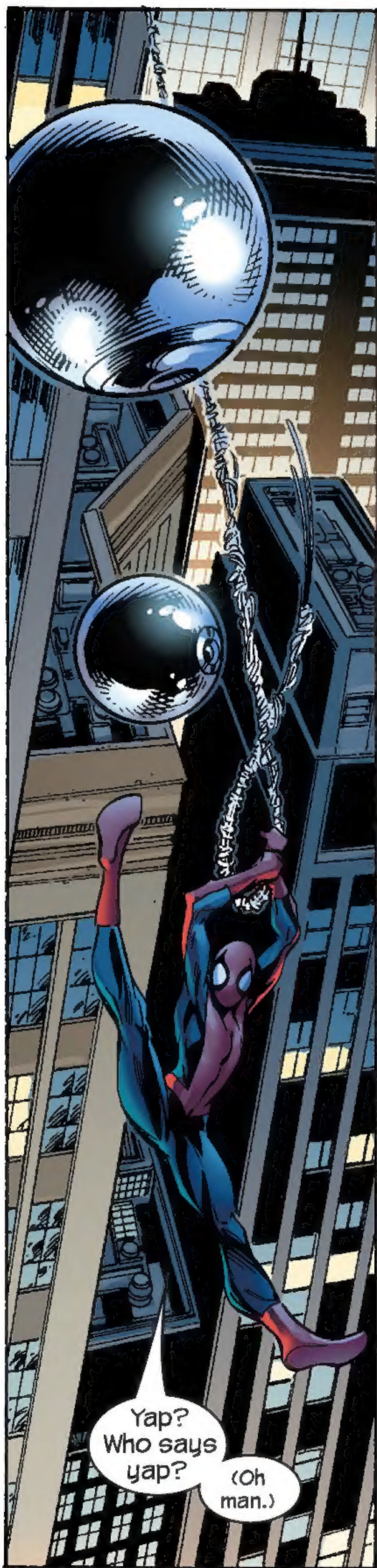


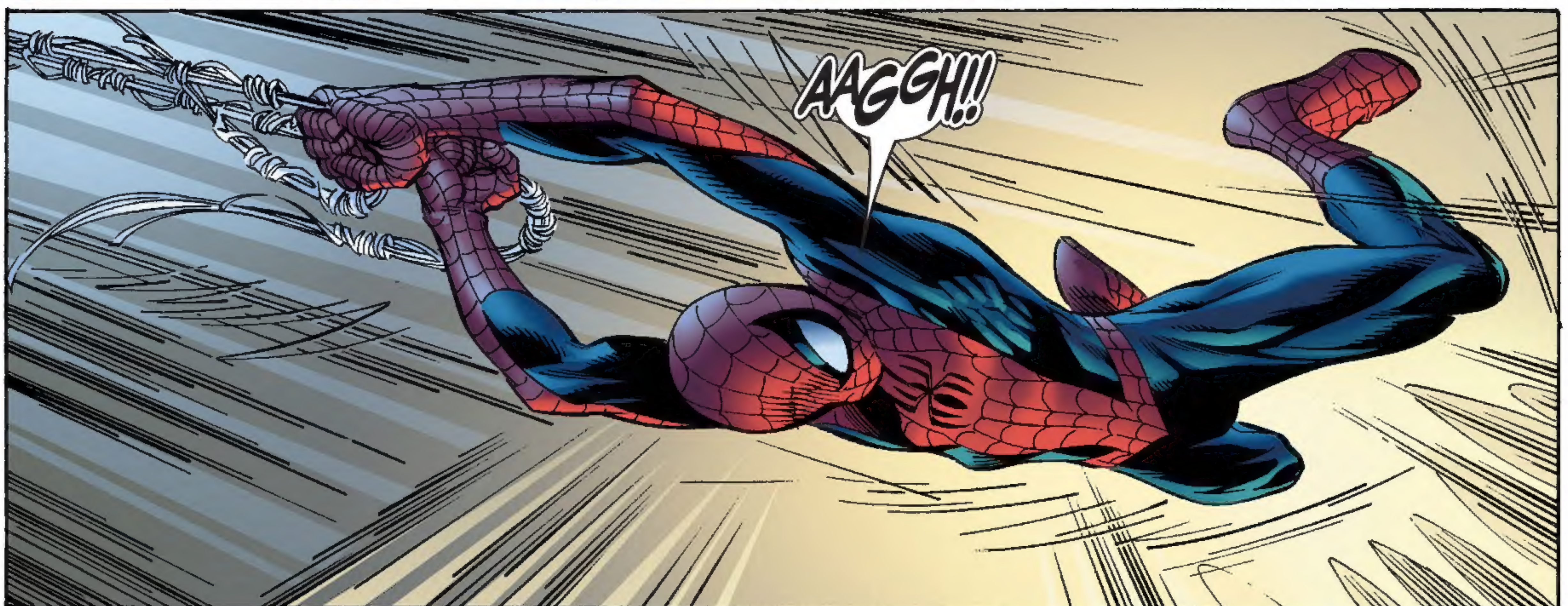
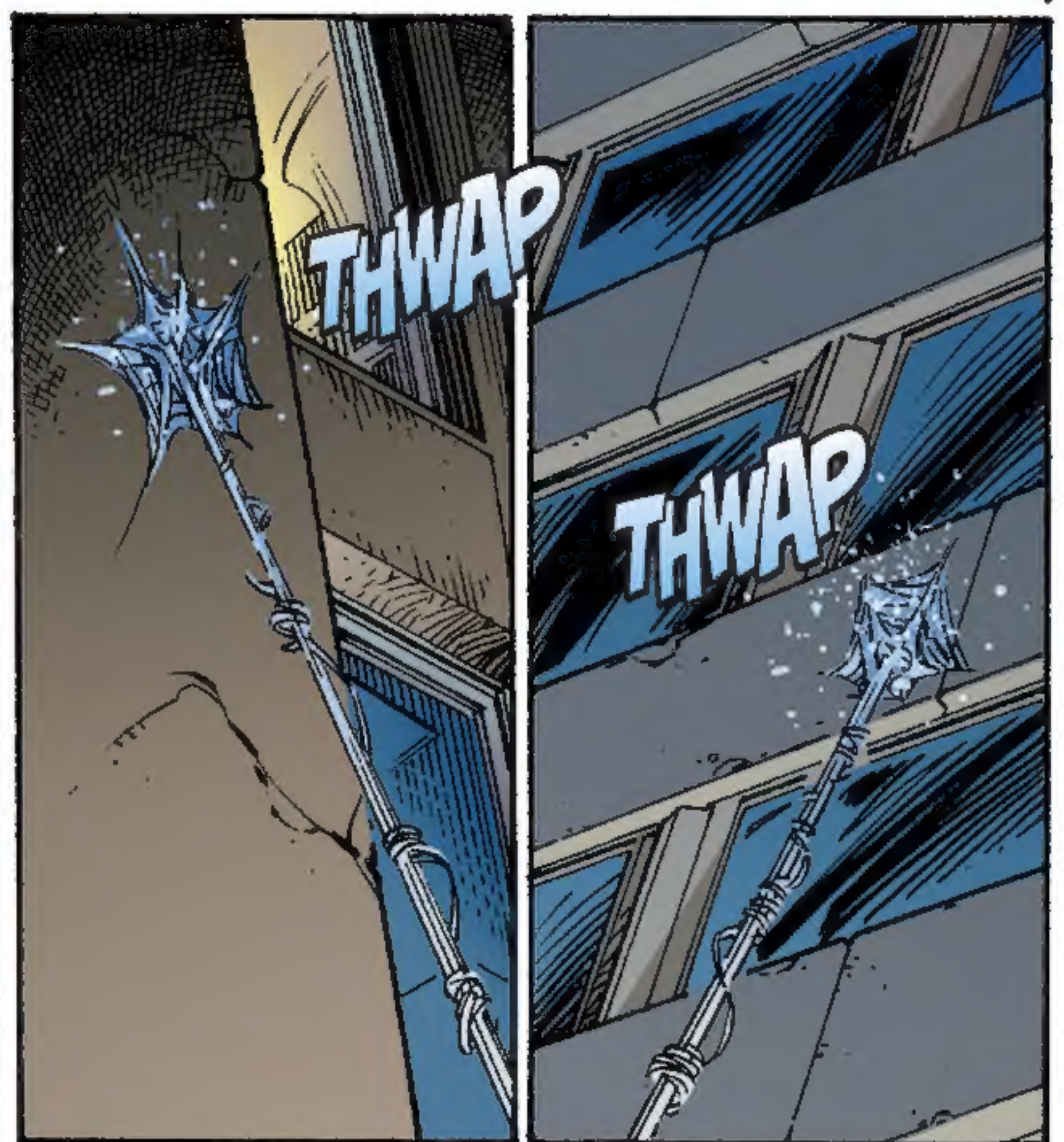
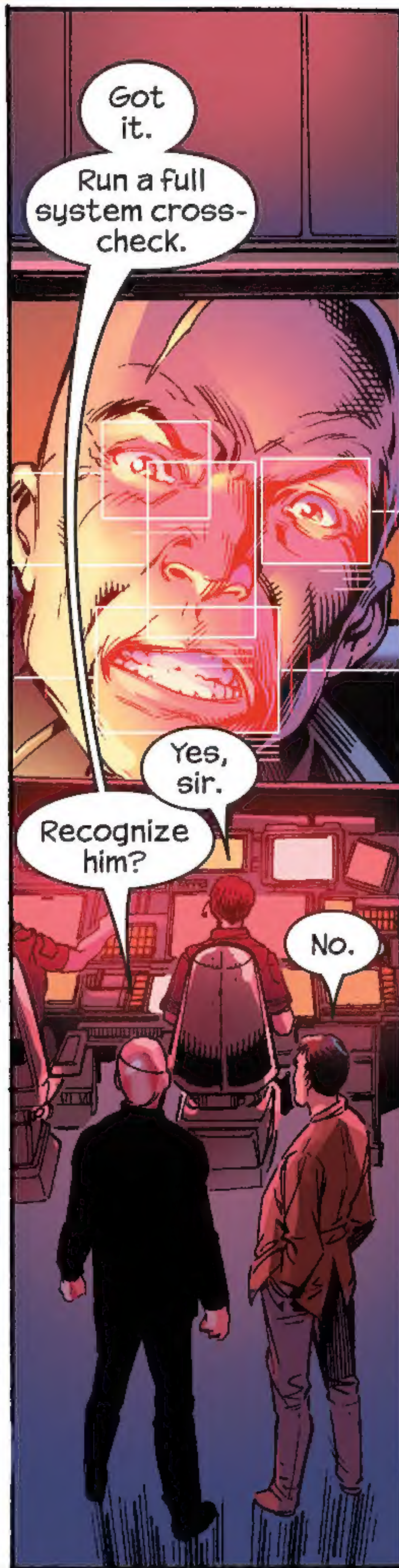
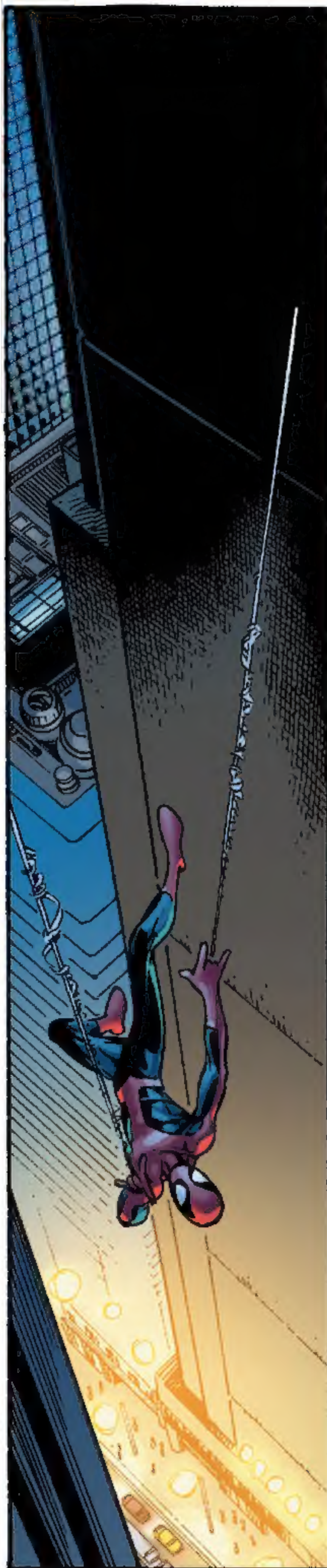
Sable, what should we do?

We should get the hell out of here! We're one man short.

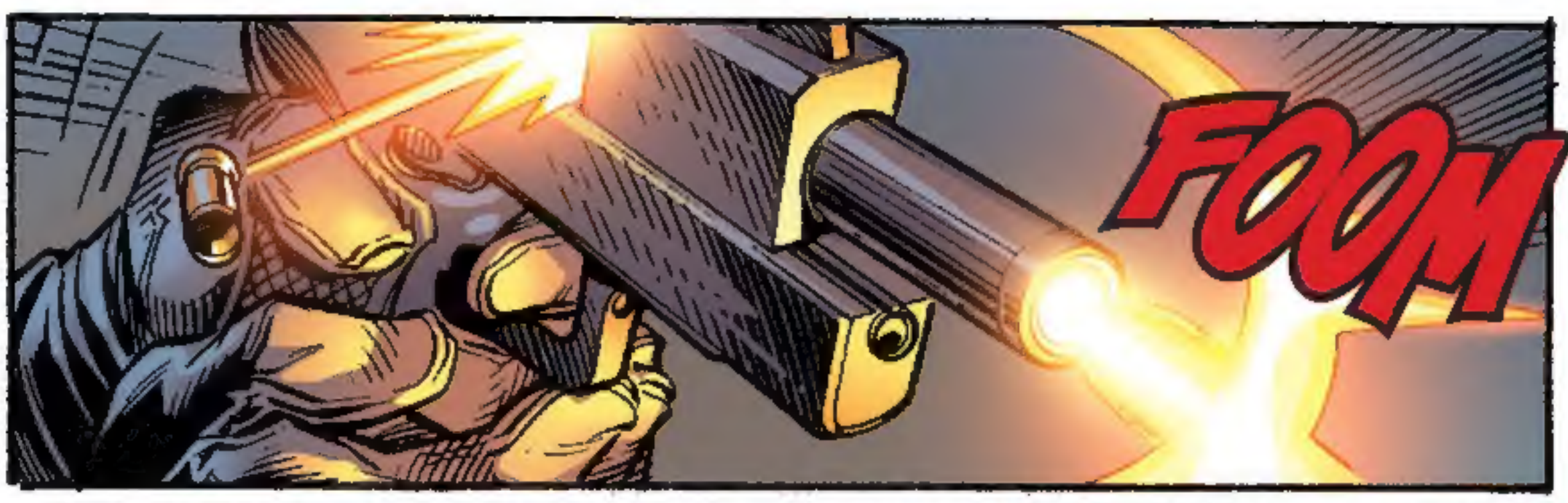


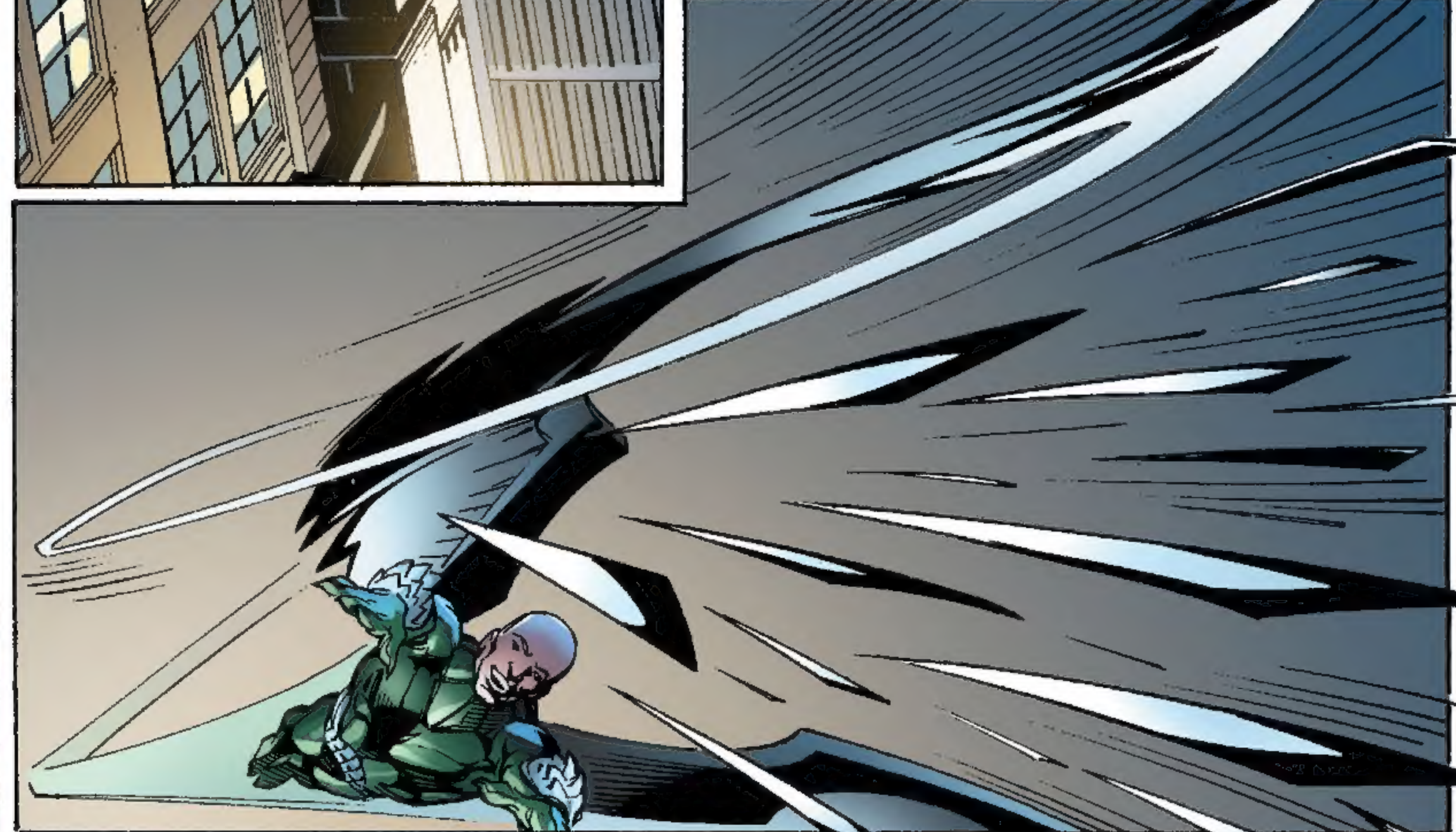
Not yet.



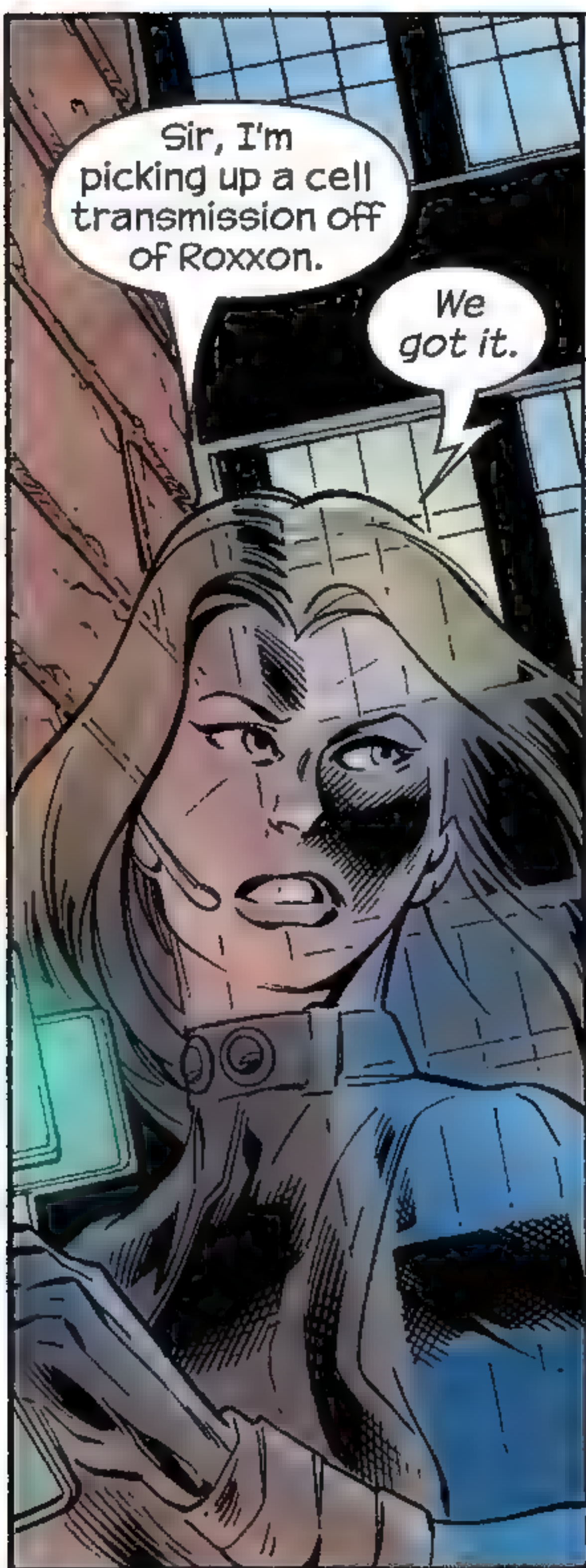












Sir, I'm picking up a cell transmission off of Roxxon.

We got it.



Hey, come on, I'm supposed to be chasing *you*!!

You really are a dumb s%##, Roxxon.

People say that about you, but *man* is it really true.

Who is this?

You really have no clue, do you? You are without clue.



Did our mystery bad guy... Actually called Roxxon on the phone.

Why would he *do* that?

I'm torn, Roxxon.



Because destroying you and your company at every turn really *should* be good enough.

It should. I know.

But--

But the truth of the matter, when it's all said and done...

I really do want you to know who did it. At least I want you to hear my voice.



That's why.

I'm triangulating the call, sir.

We already got it.

Now can I suit up?

Hell, yes.



I-I don't understand.

Of course you don't. You don't understand *anything*!!

You don't even know what you really do for a living!! Let alone know what your company does or what your name means!!

You're a puppet. A puppet!! With no puppeteer!!

Who doesn't even know he's a puppet.



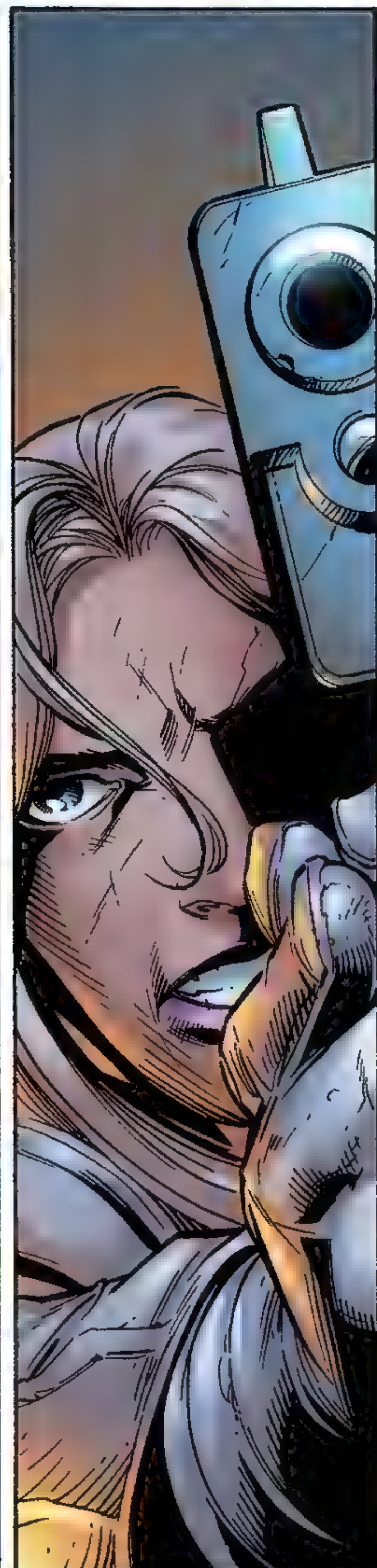
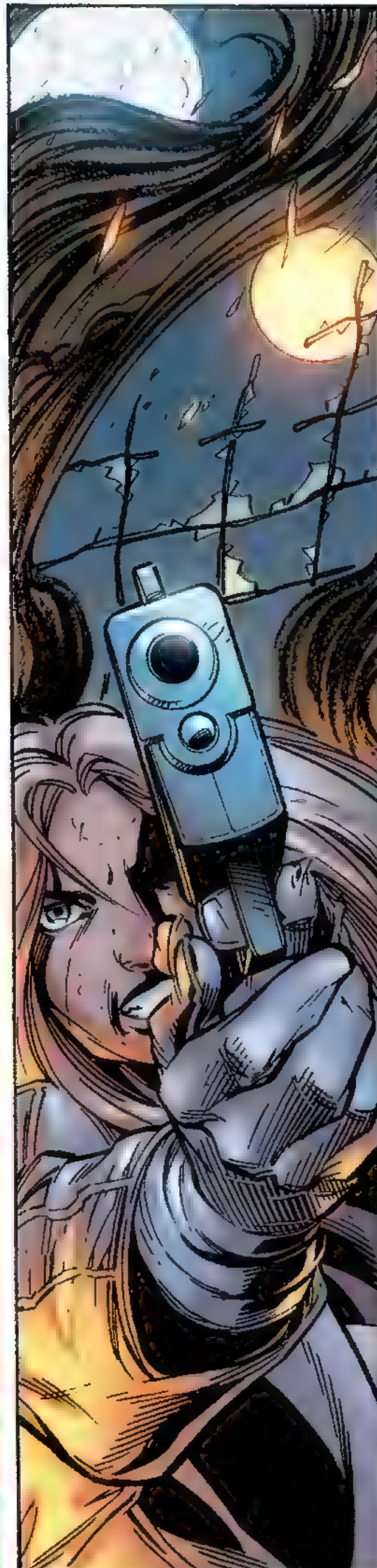
Sable, it's for another day.

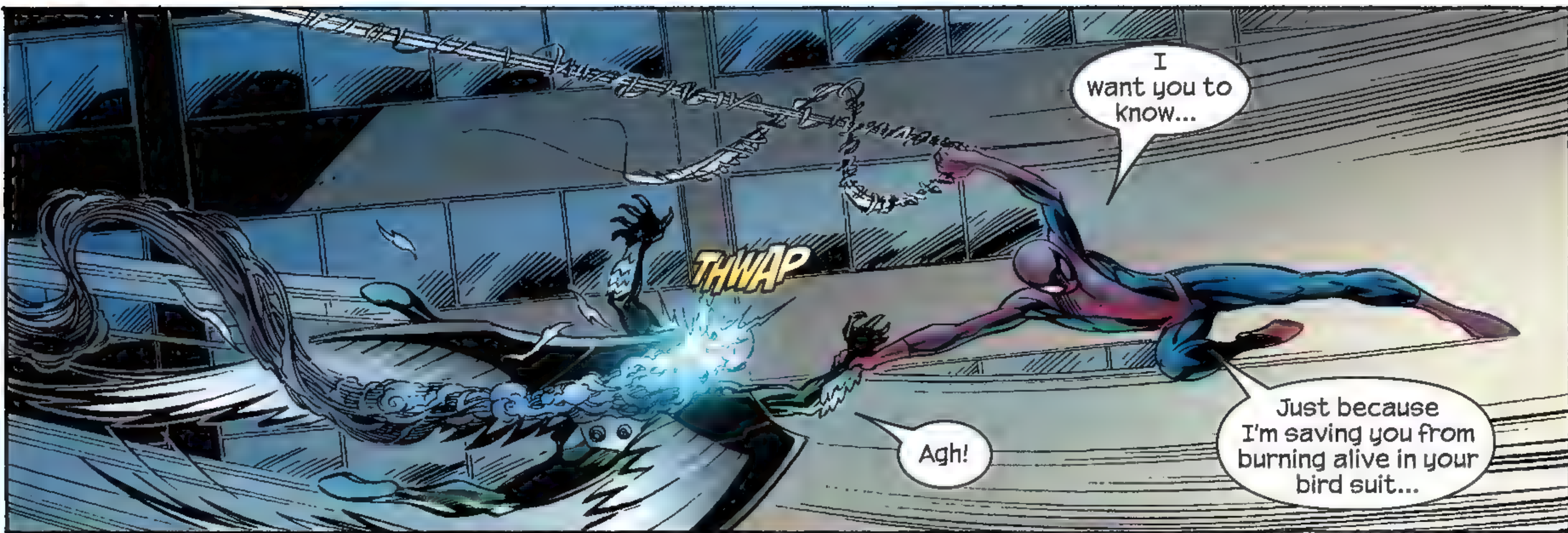
Shut up.



ARGH!

What are you, twelve years old?



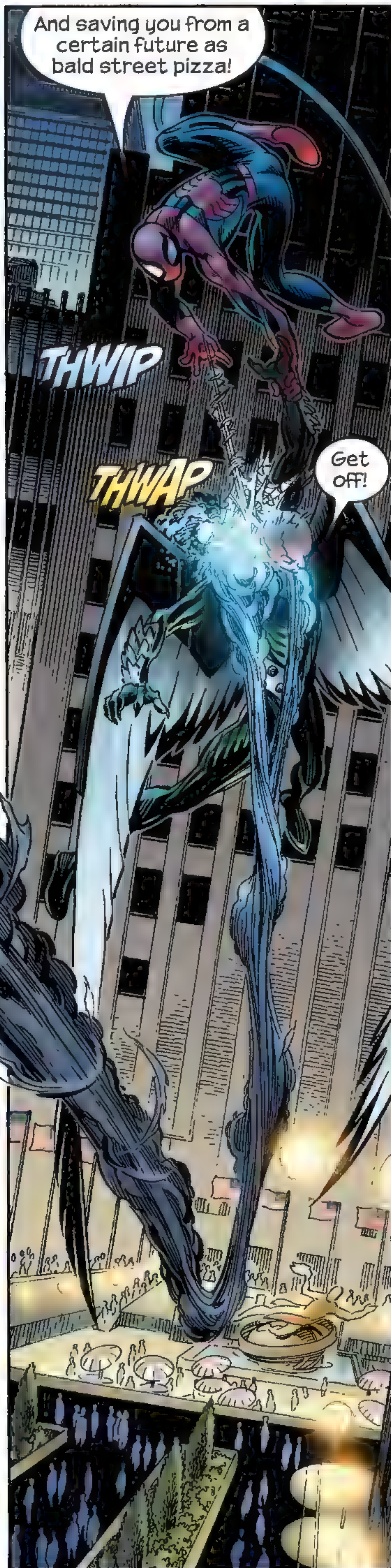


I want you to know...

THWAP

Agh!

Just because I'm saving you from burning alive in your bird suit...



And saving you from a certain future as bald street pizza!

THWIP

THWAP

Get off!



Doesn't mean I'm taking a liking to you.

(Even though I could certainly see where this could start some rumors.)

AAAAH! Get off!!



I just don't want you landing on any innocent bystanders!

AAGGHH!!

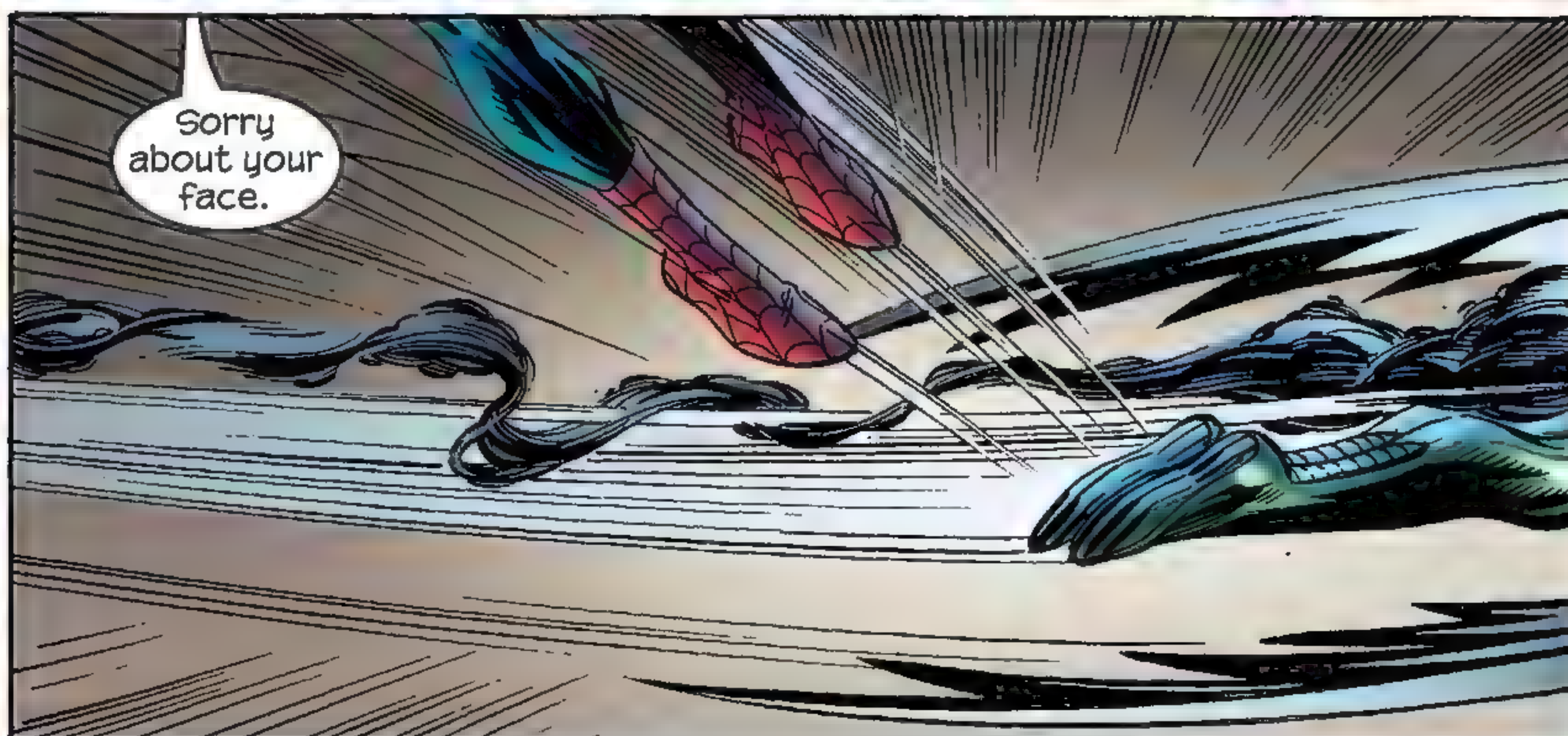
Oh, that's cute...

...how you scream like a girl like that.

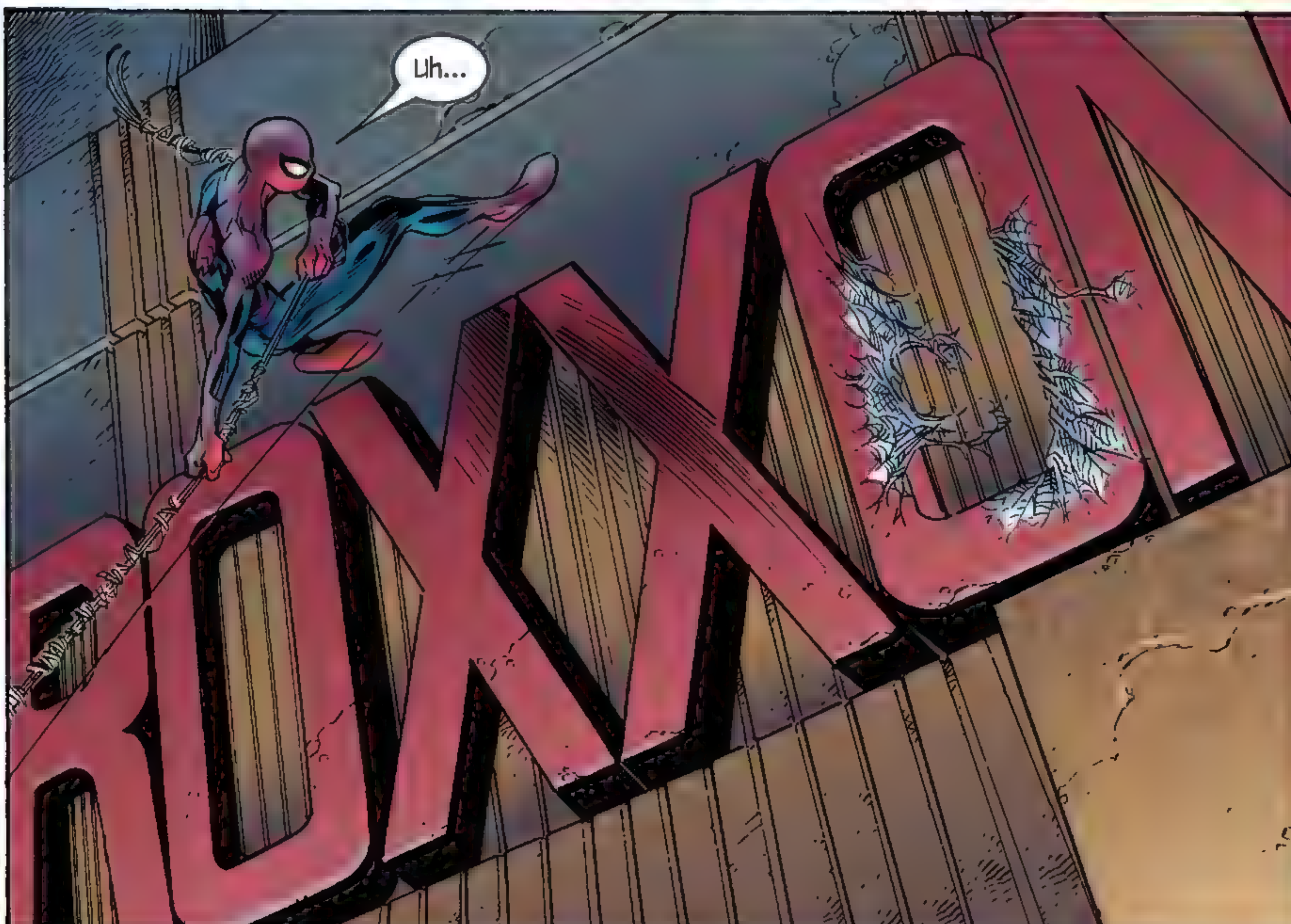
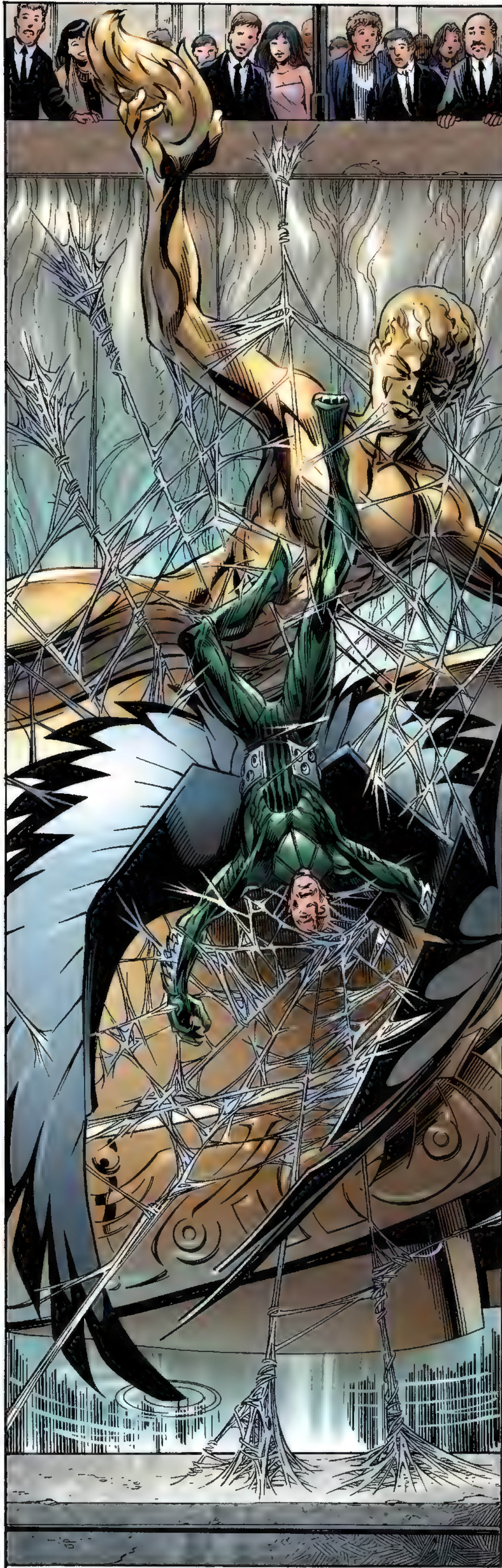


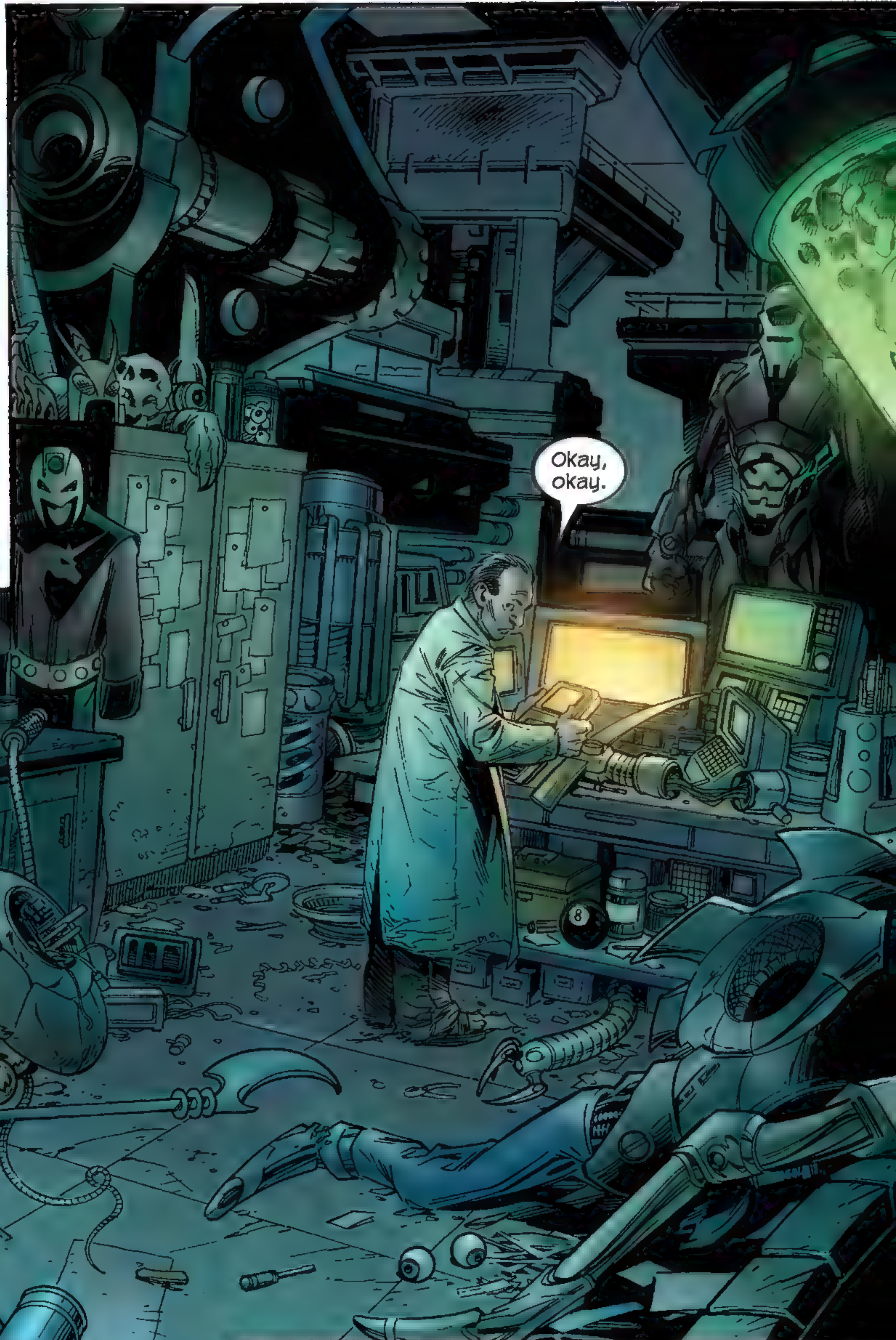
One more thing...

Oh no!



Sorry about your face.







Yeah, like we don't know how to work past that.

So? What?

You an inventor?

I tinker.



Hold on.

You got him in custody? Make sure the bird costume--

Vulture. It's supposed to be a Vulture.

Make sure it's not booby-trapped before you try and remove it.

It's not.



Elijah Stern.

You worked R and D for Roxxon and he fired you, so... you had a temper tantrum.



I-I need a lawyer.

You need massive amounts of therapy, you deluded idiot.

He fired me after I gave him the future!!

I gave it to him!!



I figured out how to use vibranium as a power source, an unlimited power source!

I sent him in the prospects and they shut down my department.

Downsized me!!

On the birth of a new technological millennium.



Roxxon's a fool.

A truly dumb fool.

The future of the world is in the hands of fools.

He screwed me. So I screwed him back.

And I did it spectacularly well. I bet he leaves the country. I bet he kills himself with pills.

If you got yourself fired, how could you afford these suits?

And how can you afford goons to put in your suits?



I stole it all from Roxxon. Hacked his accounts.

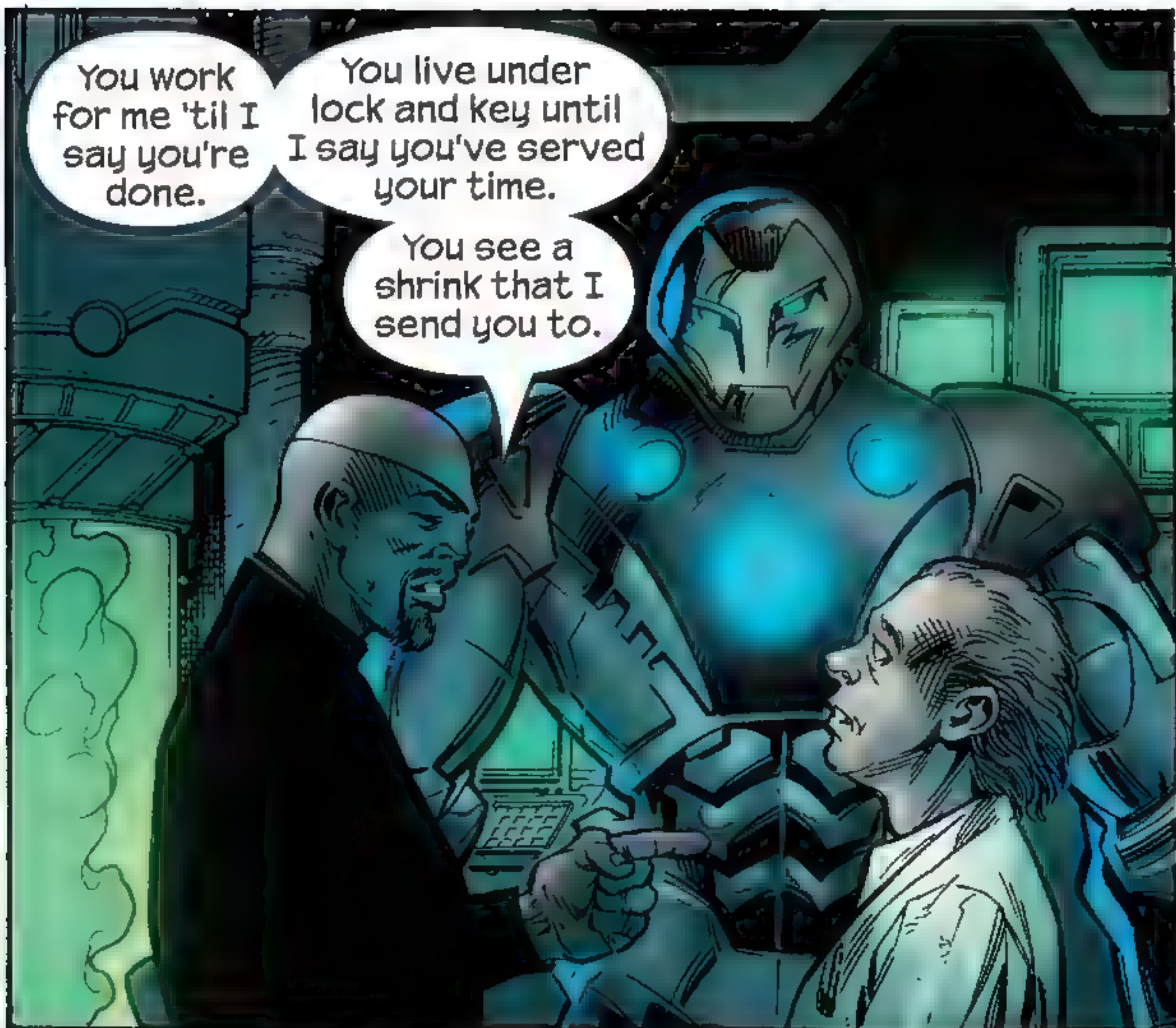
And goons are easy. There's a whole web-ring... you can hire them out of Malaysia.

Why didn't you just blow up his car? You wanted him dead so bad.

What would *that* mean?

It wouldn't mean anything. I had to take him out with things I invented for him.

You have two choices, Tinker-er...



You work for me 'til I say you're done.

You live under lock and key until I say you've served your time.

You see a shrink that I send you to.



Or...?

I shoot you for trying to escape and take all your toys anyhow.



Okay.

Let's do that first thing.



Hey, what's that over there?

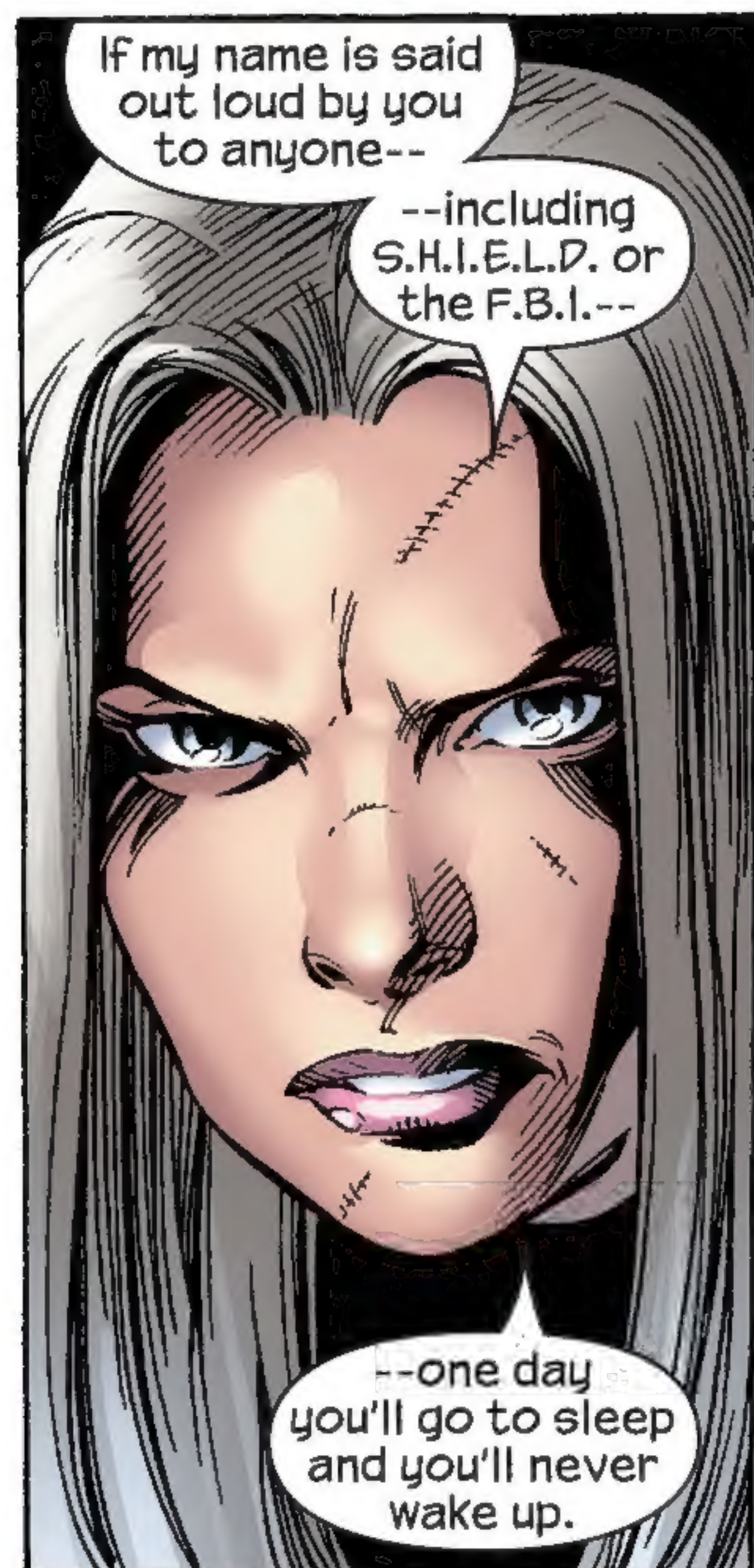
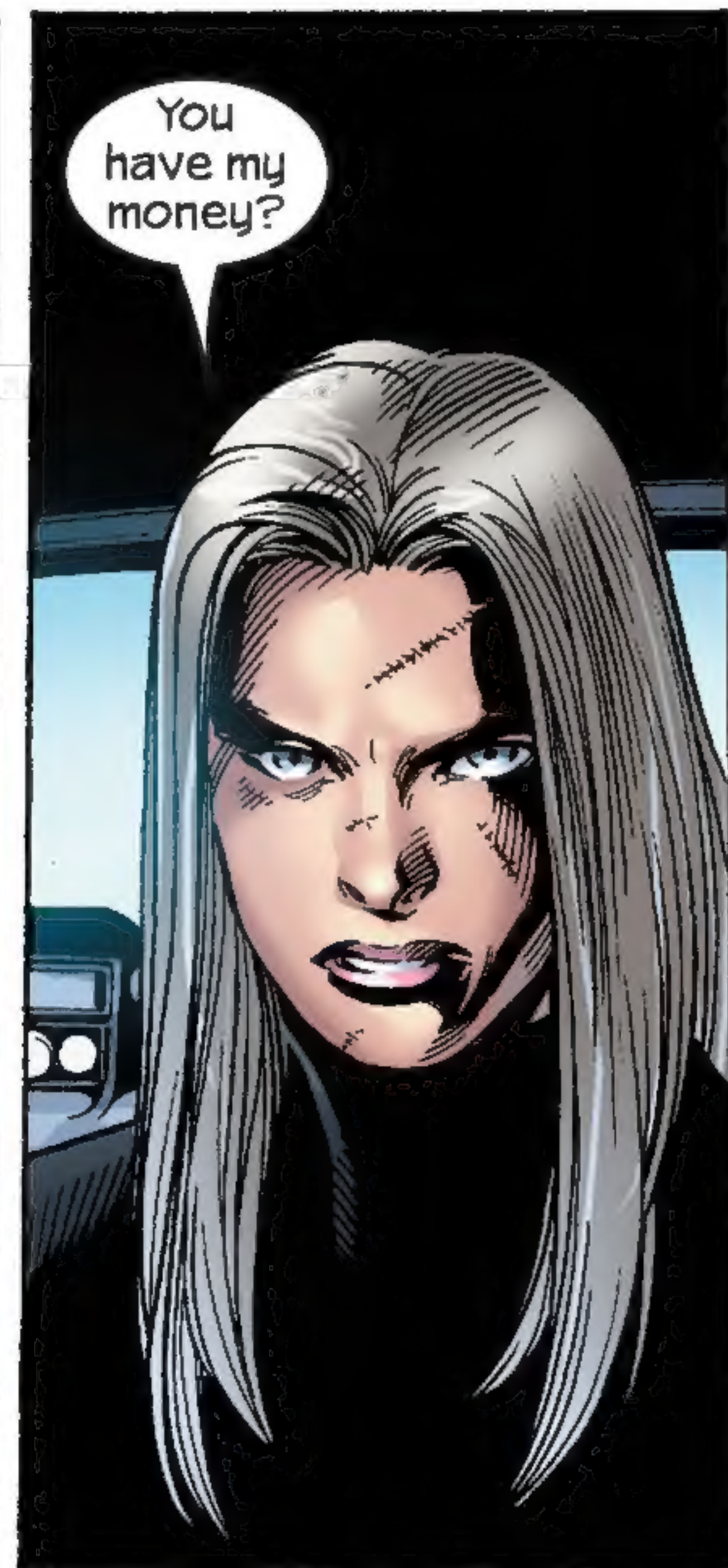
Oh, that? I call that the Slayer.

What does it slay?

What do you got?

Nice.







Flash Thompson.



Spider-Man, you can run around in a costume and commit crimes if you think that makes you a man--
--but if you come into my home and threaten me and my family, then me and you are going to have problems.

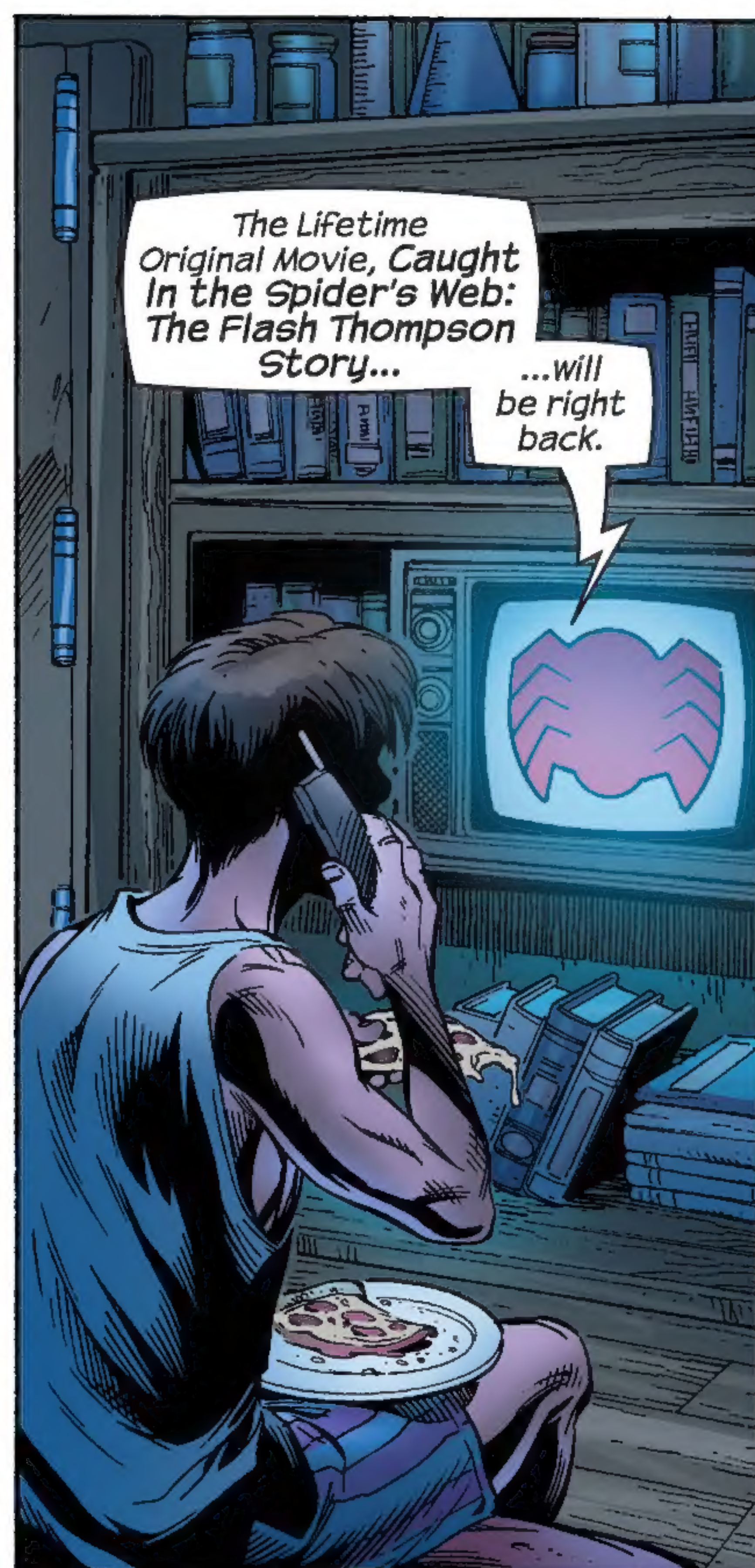


No, please, I'm sorry. I just wanted to say I'm sorry for all the trouble I bring to you and the whole world.



Well, you better get on outta here, or I'm warning you...

It's clobbering time!



The Lifetime Original Movie, *Caught In the Spider's Web: The Flash Thompson Story...*

...will be right back.



AAAAHHHHHHH!!
Kitty, do you really think you should be laughing in my face this early in our relationship?



That's not me, that's Wolverine.



Oh Peter, don't sweat it. The show aired. It's over. Don't worry about it.

Oh, it's not over.



Oh my God, was Spider-Man actually in your room, Flash?

Yeah, he really--

I thought the actor who played you was like not nearly as much a hottie as you.

What is your damage?

No, I mean, the actor--I meant it as a compliment.

Is it true Spider-Man's one of our teachers?

I think he's one of the janitors. I mean, look at him. He's disgusting.

He did kind of smell.

Oh my God, that's so gross.

Next Issue: Deadpool

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN

Dear USM Letters Page,

I've just picked up *Ultimate Spider-Man* #88, and on the cover where it would usually say Bendis, Bagley, Hanna, it says Bendis, Bagley, Dell. So I take a look at the *Ultimate Spider-Man* credits and there is no one named Dell. So my question is who is Dell?

Alec Berry

Well, Alec—you just gave us the perfect opportunity to welcome new *USM* inker John Dell! John came on for issue 88 (and we apologize profusely for getting it wrong in the credits), skipped 89, and now he's back full-time and full-power! And we couldn't be happier!

Not that we didn't all love the inking stylings of departing inker Scott Hanna, 'cause we all did! Don't miss his pen-and-brush prowess over on *Ultimate X-Men* and his remarkable finishes on *X-Men: Deadly Genesis*!

Thanks for giving me a great start to this New Year!

Geez.

Ultimate Spider-Man continues to impress. I'm new to this, so please let me say something that you've probably heard hundreds of times before: how the heck are Bags and Bendis (and the rest of the crew) producing stuff this good this fast?!!

I'll have to reiterate though—the Ultimate version of the Wild Pack...kinda sucks. They just keep screwing up! Getting the wrong guy, letting the media figure out where Spidey studies, failing to take him down this issue...in the words of every Bendis character, "arrrrggghh!"

The Ultimate line is the best thing being published today, no doubt.

Good day,
Butch Mapa

Thanks, Butch! Glad we finally won you over to *USM*! And the whole crew amazes us every issue, too!

USM,

You guys made my month. I got the impression that the general response to the Peter/Kitty relationship was negative, and I wanted to say I think it's great.

You do a fantastic job making sure that *USM* is set in the *Ultimate* Universe, not just the Spider-Man continuity, and while I'll always love MJ, what Spidey needs right now is a girl who can relate and sympathize with his super-hero lot in life, a girl he feels he can get close to without being afraid for her.

I think her character and the story arc in general are perfect, and I'm already dreading its end ('cause let's face it, nothing good ever seems to last in Peter's life). I hope you guys keep taking the story where you want to take it, not necessarily down the straight and narrow of the original comic.

Dan

Are you kidding!? Response to the Peter/Kitty thing couldn't have been *more* positive! And wait'll you see what happens next issue, when we see Kitty's new costume!

Dear *USM* Crew,

My little cousin had a big Spider-Man theme for his birthday a couple years ago and got me hooked on Spider-Man. I started watching the cartoons, reading the comics, and even started making my own comic books.

One day I was looking around in the comic book store, and saw the cover of issue 49. Kingpin happens to be one of my favorite Spider-Man bad guys, so I picked it up and flipped through it. I cracked up! I have been collecting *USM* ever since. I love the way you have redone the characters and the stories.

I'm just upset I didn't find out about *USM* sooner. I am glad I can get the volumes from the library to read what I have missed. You all do an awesome job! I love it.

Misty Gray

We're glad to have you along on this crazy ride we call *Ultimate Spider-Man*, Misty! And let me say, you're lucky to have such a great library in your area!

Hey Ultimate Team,

I recently subscribed to *Ultimate Spider-Man* and I must give it to you—you have done an amazingly excellent job. I also like the fact that I can purchase the previous issues as graphic novels. I love it that a story will take place in a multi-issue series. It creates a greater suspense and makes the characters evolve like readers never saw before.

I was re-re-reading the "Hobgoblin" story, and I was confused on whether Harry Osborn's bald friend existed or not. It's as if only Harry sees him. I do not understand what really happened.

Also, why does Venom so far not have the giant white spider on his living suit (unlike what is seen on the covers)?

Keep up the great work. Can't wait for Silver Sable.

Will Morizio
Canada

Thanks, Will! In "Hobgoblin," it seems that Mr. Shaw was, indeed, a figment of Harry's damaged psyche, and when we were seeing him, we were seeing events either through Harry's eyes, or events that Harry constructed entirely in his mind.

As for Venom...well, maybe the white spider will show up sometime in the future...?

Dear Ultimate Crew,

Just finished reading *Ultimate Spider-Man* #88—you guys are doing a fantastic job of rendering the Marvel Universe in the Ultimate form. I've been following every single issue of the Ultimate line-up, and it basically defines the word:

Awesome.

USM #88: nice issue. I really like the way things are brought up in a subtle way. I like the Peter and Kitty being together, and I also love the expression on MJ's face when she sees Peter and Kitty together.

Although I like what has been going on in *USM*...you see, my friend—not me—my *really close friend to me*, went into a shock on seeing Gwen dead. I know it's late to talk about it, but he's been in that state of shock since then.

I really do not get the idea of killing her off so quickly. Not that she needed to die in the future either...it seems you're following the old Spidey story and changing it a bit to make it into *USM*. The readers would certainly love to see more freshness.

A lot of people I know actually stopped reading *USM* because of Gwen's death. Really. I mean you can always bring her back. There's the return of Hammerhead and also the tablet Kingpin's after. Those could serve as good catalysts in bringing her back. They are just suggestions, although I'd—I mean, my friend would—love to see her back.

Okay I admit—it's me, not my friend, and I'm whining—but like it was mentioned earlier, her death has been a topic of controversy. I say it again that, I would personally love to see her back and for her to develop into a more mature character.

Prakhar Srivastava
Lucknow, India

Aw, Prakhar, and here we thought you were just being selfless, standing up for your friend!

Allow me to address some issues that have been knocking around in my head:

1. Peter must tell his aunt that he's Spider-Man. I understand that her not knowing creates an important dramatic tension, but Bendis' Ultimate Aunt May is not the frail biddy Stan Lee's Aunt May was. Ultimate Aunt May is a strong, admirable woman who deserves the same amount of respect and openness that Peter showed with his (now ex) girlfriend.

2. This issue may have been discussed to death, but I want to add my voice to the chorus that has

stated that dead characters should remain dead in the Ultimate Universe. I loved Gwen—I thought she had an element of danger and unfocused hostility that the rest of Peter's friends lacked—but she should never return (except in flashback). No clones, no Orpheus-like search in the afterlife. If death is not final, then risk means nothing, heroism is cheapened, and sacrifice is nonexistent.

3. Peter and Kitty make a great couple. The *Annual* did an excellent job of demonstrating their parallel lives. I'm quite enjoying the new awkwardness in the Peter-Mary Jane relationship. How do you maintain a friendship after a break-up when one has moved on and the other hasn't? If Bendis can come up with a workable solution, he may be the first man in history to do so.

4. How great is it that Spider-Man can punk a guy in an eight-foot rhino supersuit, but a random high school bag check stops him cold? The Ultimate universe reignited a love of comics in me that I thought died way back with the "Mutant Massacre." Your stories are fresh and engrossing, your characters are well-developed and exciting, and your artwork is vibrant and jaw-dropping.

Some people I know still think comics are a waste of time or that the Ultimate Universe does not have the same prestige as the regular universe, but I think you're the best at what you do, and what you do isn't near a vice.

Jeff Boyer

Wow, Jeff...thanks for that eloquent praise. We salute you and your Orpheus imagery!

NEXT



A new arc! A new villain! Another new villain! More new villains! New guest stars! And a new identity?! (Or, in other words, "Deadpool," Deadpool, the Ringer, the Reavers, the X-Men, and Kitty Pryde is...Spider-Girl!?!) Don't miss it—we couldn't bear having you that depressed afterward!

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